

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

Amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 20 as follows:

In the structure described above, the first contact hole FC2, the second contact hole SC, the third contact hole TC and W plugs 20, 23 and 26, each of which is buried in each of the respective contact holes, are aligned vertically. ~~[[The]]~~ The structure in which the contact holes are stacked as described above is referred to as a stacked contact structure. The patterning area taken up by contact hole regions in a multi-layer metal structure is minimized by using this stacked contact structure.